

The second was in my back verandah. I heard a curious swishing noise while having tea at 4.30 p.m. and on looking out of the window saw a huge hamadryad slowly moving along the back verandah. I called up the servants and we threatened it with sticks and it made off rapidly. We threw big stones and one caught it on the back, drawing blood. It reared up about 3 feet or more, expanding its hood, but did not drive home its attack and finally went up a bushy tree 15 feet off the ground. Meanwhile my man brought a shot-gun and I shot it through the head. It measured 13 feet.

I may say that I saw two hamadryads last year in a block in the Siwaliks and neither of them showed fight. One we killed, the other was lying beside a stream when I came on it in the early morning while out after a chital. It swam the stream like greased lightning and disappeared.

AJMER,
July 8, 1927.

W. M. LOGAN HOME,
Major,
4th Bombay Grenadiers.

[While the belief that the Hamadryad will attack human beings with or without provocation is widely current, authentic records of its doing so are extremely rare. In the majority of instances this snake, like others of his kind, seeks safety in flight. EDS.]

XXIX.—MR. SLATER'S DEATH BY SNAKE BITE

Some months back you published in your Journal my letter regarding the above, in which I stated that it was a well-known fact in these parts that the snake which bit Mr. Slater of the Geological Department was a King Cobra or Hamadryad. I gave the facts as stated to me by the Range Forest Officer who was at that time in charge of the Thirthahalli Range in the Shimoga District where this incident took place. In a later issue of the Journal Mr. R. C. Morris of Attikan Estate, Mysore District, contradicted my statement, and said that it was not a King Cobra but a Russel's Viper which bit Mr. Slater and caused his death. I am sorry I was not able to reply to this contradiction earlier as I have only now been able to get authentic confirmation of my previous statement.

MYSORE, S. INDIA,
September 27, 1927.

CHARLES THEOBALD.

[Mr. Theobald forwards us letters received by him from the District Magistrate, Shimoga, the Director, Mysore Geological Department, and the District Forest Officer, Shimoga. Though none of these officials were present at the time of the occurrence they conclude from the reports gathered at the time that the snake which caused Mr. Slater's death was a 'Kalinaga' which according to Mr. Theobald is the local name for Hamadryad. EDS.]